

Johnson

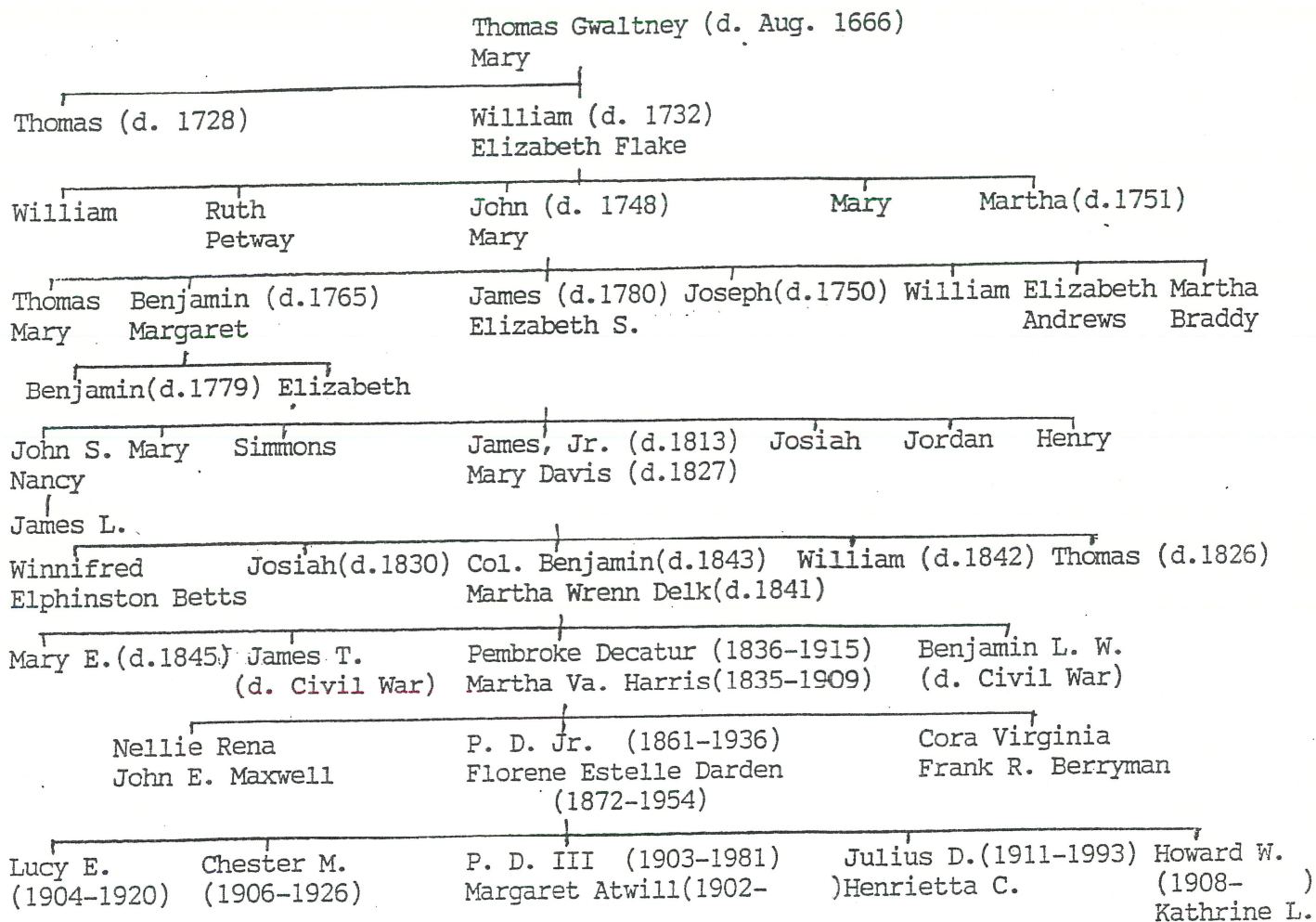
G W A L T N E Y

Walt

FILE OF WIGHT LIBRARY
SOUTHFIELD BRANCH

(Gualtney, Gwalpney, Goltney)

Diagram: William A. Gwaltney, 1993.



GWALTNEY HISTORY

- 1836 P. D. Gwaltney born. Parents- Col. Benjamin T. and Martha Delk Gwaltney
- 1857 Married Martha Virginia Harris
- 1859 Operated P. D. Gwaltney and Co. gunsmith business in Norfolk. He was associated with Thomas Wrenn Cofer.
- 1861 P. D. Gwaltney Jr. was born.
- 1862 P. D. Gwaltney joined the Surry Light Artillery unit of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. He served as a "Master Armorer" repairing small arms.
- 1865 Returned home in July from Union Prison in Newport News. He had lost two brothers in the war; James T. and B. L. W. Gwaltney.
- 1870 Formed partnership with O. G. Delk in the name of "Gwaltney and Delk". The business included retail merchantile, wholesale commission and freighting with the sloop "Three Sisters". Sales of cured and smoked hams, sides and shoulders was part of the business. The pork was processed in sheds and smoke houses behind the store at 117 Commerce St. (located on parcels 052 and 054 on present tax map 21A-01. These buildings were demolished and removed in 1991. see attached map)
- 1874 The partnership purchased the store building, sheds and wharf lot on the Pagan River from the heirs of W. H. Jordan from whom they had been rented..
- 1875 The partnership was desolved. Delk retained the freighting business and sloop "Three Sisters" plus cash. Gwaltney retained the store, sheds and smokehouses and wharf operating as "P. D. Gwaltney & Co.".
- 1880 Partnership of "Gwaltney, Chapman & Co." was formed by P. D. Gwaltney, J. Wesley Chapman and P. D. Gwaltney Jr. to conduct the merchantile and pork processing business at the same location. P. D. Gwaltney erected the first peanut cleaning and bagging factory and warehouse in Smithfield. Location was at the southern corner of the intersection of Thomas and Commerce Streets adjacent to the store.
- 1881 Augustus Bunkley joined P. D. Gwaltney in the peanut business.
- 1882 Partnership of "Gwaltney, Chapman & Co. was dissolved. The partnership of "P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co." was formed by father and son under the direction of the son to conduct the same business. Son was 21 years old.
- 1886 Smithfield Telephone Company was chartered by P. D. Gwaltney, Augustus Bunkley, E. C. Ramsey, K. K. Chapman and P. D. Gwaltney Jr..
- 1891 Bank of Smithfield was chartered by P. D. Gwaltney Jr., M. F. Langhorne, A. S. Barrett, Augustus Bunkley, B. P. Chapman and J. O. Thomas. M. F. Langhorne was the first president. Capital asset amounted to \$30,744. Gwaltney Bunkley Peanut Company was incorporated.
- 1897 Gwaltney Bunkley Peanut Company bought out the "Independent Peanut Company of Smithfield" whose factory was on Commerce Street.
- 1898 Gwaltney Bunkley Peanut Company handled about 1/3 of the entire Virginia and North Carolina peanut crop. Gwaltney Bunkley bought Alliance Peanut Warehouse on Commerce Street. Augustus Bunkley died.
- 1899 Smithfield Telephone Company was granted a franchise for phone service to the Town of Smithfield.

- 1900 P. D. Gwaltney Jr. started construction of his home at 304 South Church Street. Lot was then known as # 45 and contained the "Odd Fellows Hall" which was removed.
- Smithfield Water Company was granted a franchise to construct a waterworks and distribution system for the town of Smithfield. The company was dissolved in 1959 when the Town created its Water and Sewer Dept. Organizers were: A. R. Chalmers, B. P. Gay, J. D. Jordan, J. G. Wilson, P. D. Gwaltney Jr., B. P. Chapman, Bertie W. Hearn, O. G. Delk, J. Waverly Thomas, James E. Chapman, and A. S. Barrett.
- 1901 P. D. Gwaltney Jr. married Florine Estelle Darden in April and completed his new residence in the Fall.
- The Home Telephone Company was formed by the merger of Smithfield Telephone Company and Isle of Wight Telephone & Telegraph Company which had been started in 1898. Incorporators of Home Tel. were: P. D. Gwaltney, J. E. Maxwell, P. D. Gwaltney Jr, F. B. Berryman, B. P. Gay, V. W. Joyner, and J. W. Holloway.
- 1902 The Gwaltney Bunkley Peanut Company processed 300,000 bags of peanuts valued at \$1,250,000. Peanuts were sold in the principal cities of the United States and Canada and exported to London, Liverpool, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, Cape Town, Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- 1903 P. D. Gwaltney 3rd was born.
- 1905 The Town granted a franchise to C. A. Travis of Cape Charles for " the manufacture and sale of light and fuel gas in town". The number of street lights and time of operation were specified.
- P. D. Gwaltney was elected to the Town Council.
- 1906 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. modernized and doubled the capacity of the curing and smoking buildings behind the store. These buildings were later called "Plant No. 1". The price of Smithfield Hams was 19½¢ per lb.
- 1907 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. products were granted federal inspection under the new Pure Food and Drug Laws.
- 1908 Howard W. Gwaltney was born.
- 1911 The American Peanut Corporation of Norfolk absorbed Gwaltney Bunkley Peanut Company and the Bain Peanut Company of Wakefield. P. D. Bain was President and P. D. Gwaltney was Chairman of the Board. Julius D. Gwaltney was born.
- 1912 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co purchased land from Thomas Purdie to expand the curing and smoking facilities behind the store. (Closest smokehouse to what was later North Church Street. Was still standing in 1991.)
- The Bank of Smithfield burned in December. The Home Telephone Company central office in the same building was destroyed. Terminals for the Norfolk and Suffolk long distance circuits were temporarily set up in the home of J. W. Holloway on S. Church St. He was president. The central office was moved to the second floor of the post office building three doors away on S. Church St.

Meat prices quoted by P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. were:

Smithfield Hams	23¢ per lb.
Smithfield Shoulders	14½¢ "
Breakfast Bacon	16 ¢ "
Square Cut Middling Bacon	12½¢ "
Smoked JOwls	8½¢ "

Compiled by W. A. Gwaltney 5/3/81
Updated 7/15/91

- 1913 P. D. Gwaltney Jr supervised the construction of the new Bank of Smithfield building at the same location on Main St. Mr. C. T. Holtzclaw of Hampton was General Contractor and H. L. Cain of Richmond was architect. Stone facing for the front weighed about 100 tons and was shipped from Baltimore to Smithfield in several trips on the schooner "Federal Hill".
- P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. included 10,000 hams in inventory for sale.
- P. D. Gwaltney Jr created the Smithfield Light & Power Co. to "light the town and make ice". He was granted a franchise to "Light the Town" by the Town Council on September 5th. The Smithfield Light & Power Co building on the west side of Commerce St. stood in 1991.
- 1914 C. A. Travis surrendered his franchise to Smithfield Light & Power Co.
- P. D. Gwaltney Sr resigned at 78 from the office of President of the American Peanut Corporation .
- 1915 P. D. Gwaltney Sr died. P. D. Gwaltney Jr was elected to Town Council.
- 1916 Home Telephone Company received a franchise for phone service in Smithfield.
- 1919 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co sold the following meats during 1919 fiscal year:
- | | | |
|-----------------|---------|------|
| Smithfield Hams | 164,410 | lbs. |
| " Shoulders | 57,159 | " |
| " Sides | 45,243 | " |
| " Jowls | 22,836 | " |
| Miscellaneous | 5,913 | " |
| Total | 295,561 | lbs. |
- 1921 The peanut factories and warehouses and Old Dominion Steamship Co warehouse on Commerce St were destroyed by fire.
- 1926 The General Assembly of Virginia passed an act defining " Genuine Smithfield" meats as a result of the efforts of P. D. Gwaltney Jr and A. S. Johnson, delegate to the Assembly from Isle of Wight County.
- Virginia Electric and Power Co. bought the franchise and business of Smithfield Light & Power Co. The light plant on Hill St. had a 75 Kva generator and a 150 Kva generator. The ice plant sold to Commonwealth Ice Company Inc had a capacity of about 10 tons of ice per day.
- 1927 P. D. Gwaltney 3rd was elected to Board of Directors of Home Telephone.
- 1928 P. D. G. 3rd elected to board of Bank of Smithfield.
- 1929 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. was incorporated with:
- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| P. D. Gwaltney Jr. | President and Chairman |
| Howard W. Gwaltney | Vice President |
| P.D. Gwaltney 3rd | Secretary-Treasurer |
| Julius D. Gwaltney | Assistant Treasurer |
- P. D. Gwaltney 3rd was elected to Town Council
- Howard W. Gwaltney was elected to the Board of Home Telephone.
- 1931 Howard W. Gwaltney was elected to Town Council.
- 1932 Gwaltney's Pet Ham, cured and smoked in 1902 and insured for \$5,000, was featured in "Riply's Believe It or Not".
- 1936 P. D. Gwaltney Jr. died.

1936 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co., Inc. reorganized with :

Howard W. Gwaltney	President
Julius D. Gwaltney	Vice President
P. D. Gwaltney 3rd	Secretary-Treasurer and Chairman

P. D. Gwaltney 3rd was elected Chairman and President of Home Telephone Company.

Howard W. Gwaltney was elected Chairman and President of Bank of Smithfield.

Plant No 2, slaughter house and fresh pork packing, began operation on the N. shore of the Pagan River at Rt. #10 bridge. It was the second abattoir to be built in Virginia in accordance with the FDA's Federal Meat Inspection regulations.

1937 Julius D. Gwaltney was elected to the Board of Home Telephone Co.

He supervised operations for P.D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. For the fiscal year hog kill numbered 11,660 head. Total meat products sold amounted to 1,049,000 lbs. including 652,500 lbs. of Smithfield Hams.

1942 P. D. Gwaltney 3rd was appointed a member of the Isle of Wight War Price and Rationing Board

1947 W. Joe Holloway was elected President of Home Telephone Company.

1949 P.D. Gwaltney 3rd was appointed to Isle of Wight School Board.

1954 Phase 1 of P.D. Gwaltney Jr & Co Plant No. 3 on the west side of Rt. #10 north of Smithfield was completed and operations began. This plant contained hog pens, kill floor, hog coolers, carcass cut floor, lard rendering, and inedible rendering.

Estelle D. Gwaltney died.

1957 P. D. Gwaltney Jr & Co. Inc.'s name was changed to Gwaltney Inc.

1964 P.D.Gwaltney 3rd retired from the board of Home Telephone Company.

Home Telephone Company merged into Home Telephone and Telegraph Company of Virginia. Julius D. Gwaltney was elected to the Board.

1965 P.D. Gwaltney 3rd retired from the Board of Bank of Smithfield.

1967 Gwaltney Inc went public. Its stock was sold on the "Over the Counter" market under the Securities and Exchange Commission regulations.

P.D. Gwaltney 3rd retired from the office of Treasurer of Gwaltney Inc.

1968 Julius D. Gwaltney retired from the Board of Home Tel. and Tel. of Virginia. That company was merged into Continental Telephone of Virginia.

1969 Gwaltney Inc. sold 149,000,000 lbs. of meat products for \$61,901,000 to customers from Boston to Georgia. Net income was \$2,139,000. An average of 3,500 hogs were slaughtered daily. The company sold a full line of pork products.

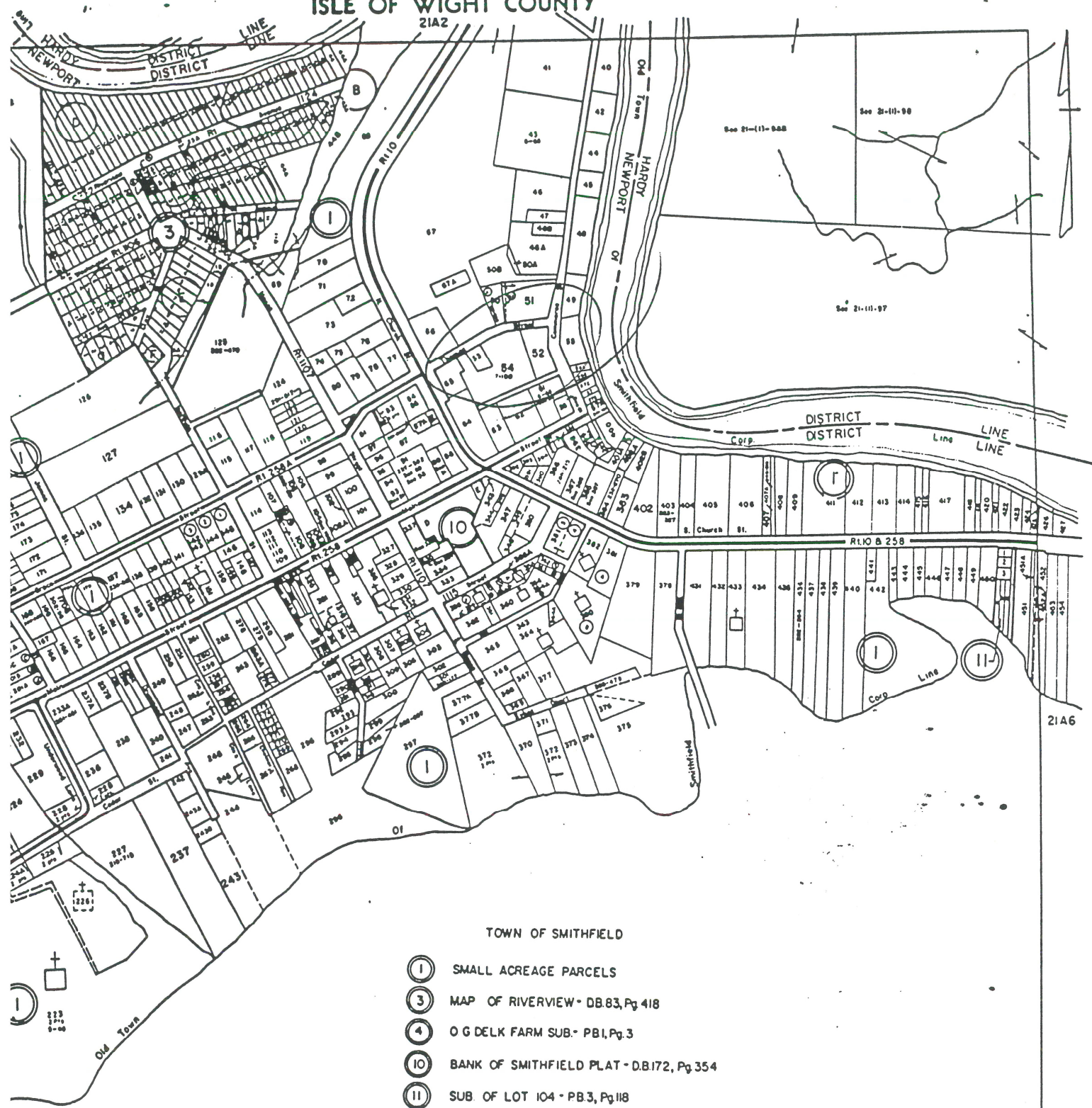
1970 Gwaltney Inc. Merged into International Telephone & Telegraph Corp. and continued as ITT Gwaltney Inc.

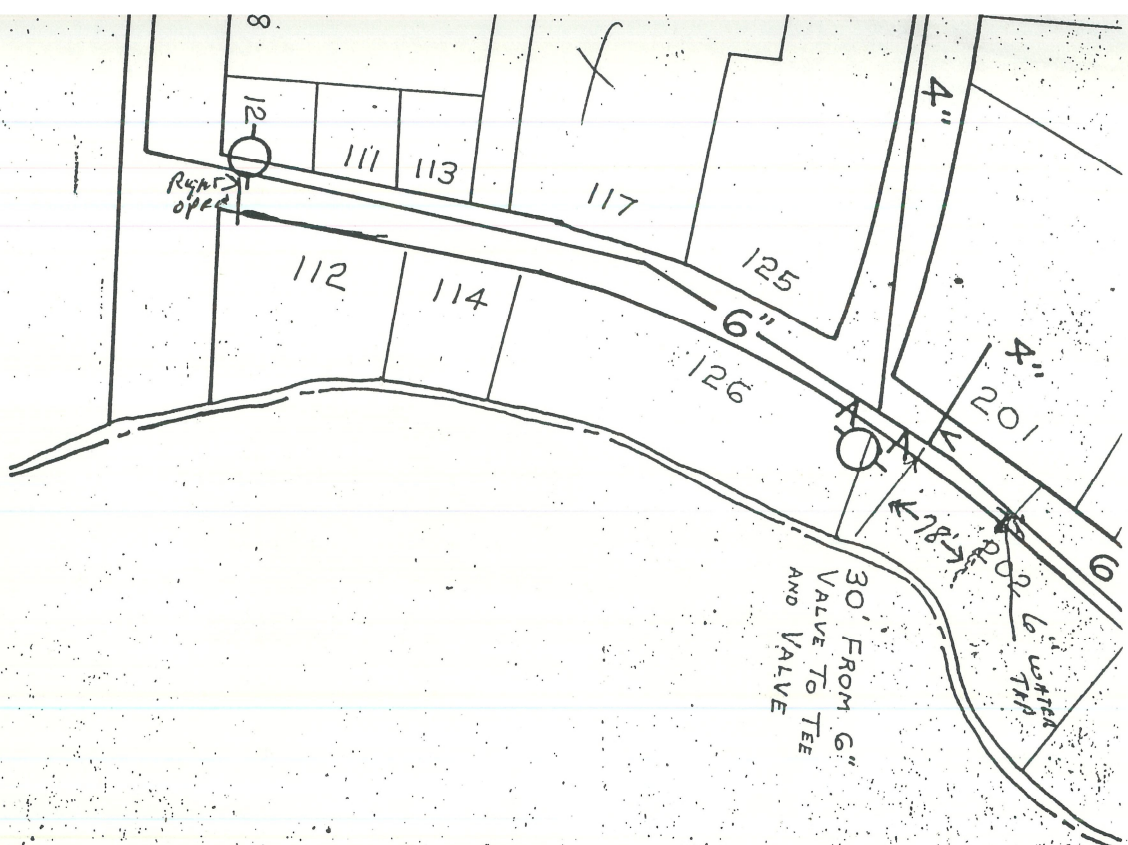
P.D.Gwaltney 3rd retired from the Board of Directors.

1971 Julius D. Gwaltney retired from the office of Exec. Vice President of ITT Gwaltney Inc.

- 1972 Howard W. Gwaltney retired from the office of President of ITT Gwaltney Inc. and from its Board of Directors.
- 1975 The Bank of Smithfield was merged into Dominion Bankshares Corp. Capital resources of Bank of Smithfield at the time amounted to \$18,096,000. Howard W. Gwaltney was elected to Dominion's Board of Directors.
- 1976 Howard W. Gwaltney retired from the office of President of the Bank of Smithfield.
- Julius D. Gwaltney retired from the Board of ITT Gwaltney Inc.
- 1981 Howard W. Gwaltney retired from the Board of Dominion Bankshares.
- 1881 Gwaltney's Plant No.2, which had been sold some years before, was destroyed by fire. It was being used in part for storage and part for the repair and salvage of used electronic equipment.
- 1981 P.D. Gwaltney 3rd died.
- 1991 The deteriorated "Gwaltney and Delk" store, livery stables, and pork curing and smoking facilities on Commerce St. and expansions called "Plant No. 1" were demolished and removed by Water Front Land Corporation and Smithfield Foods Inc. The first Smithfield Packing Co. plant built in 1937/38 (?) by Mr. Luter at the corner of Thomas and Commerce Streets, which had partially burned in 1990, was also demolished and removed. These were removed to make room for future business and residential development.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY





PAGAN

2/1/73

SMITHFIELD, VIRGINIA

WATER DISTRIBUTION AND

STREET NUMBERS

SCALE 1" = 100'

SHEET No. 5

Gwaltney records evoke a simpler age

Librarians are always on the lookout for the unusual. A few years ago, William and Mary received a call from a land developer who had just bought property along Smithfield's waterfront containing the abandoned office of P. D. Gwaltney and Co., one of that town's oldest meat curers.

"Would the library be interested in the Gwaltney records, for the years 1871 to 1973?" a voice asked Associate Librarian John Haskell Jr. He didn't hesitate. Before long he had a truck in Smithfield and loaded with 37 boxes of company records and 391 account books. Now they're all cataloged in the college archives in the Earl Gregg Swem Library.

"They give William and Mary one of the most complete records of any early business in Virginia," Haskell says. "We are delighted to have them."

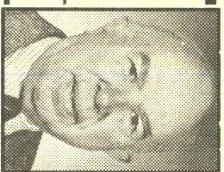
The college wishes other people would do as developer Richard E. Green Jr. did and let the college have a look at unwanted papers instead of destroying them.

"Unfortunately," says Haskell, "early business records usually disappear."

I remember Smithfield's old P. D. Gwaltney office and smokehouses, for they were among the few structures in the low-lying bottomland along the Pagan River when I sum-

Parke Rouse

Columnist



mered in Smithfield in the 1920s and 1930s. Today the Gwaltney operation is part of the big Smithfield Foods Corp., headed by Joe Luter Jr., with modern headquarters not far from my grandparents' old farm.

The Gwaltney firm is an example of what's happened to Virginia's firms since the Civil War. It was started on a shoestring in 1871 by Pembroke Decatur Gwaltney of Surry County, who had served the Confederacy as a gunsmith. After the Civil War, P. D. and his wife, Martha Harris Gwaltney, moved to Smithfield and started a general store, with Capt. O. G. Delk as a partner. In addition, Gwaltney and Delk owned a schooner, the Three Sisters, which transported Smithfield's produce to market.

Soon the Old Dominion Line put a daily steamboat on the run to Newport News and Norfolk, operated under various auspices until after the James River Bridge in 1928 killed the steamboat business.

"Old Man P. D.," as folks in Smithfield called him, used his gunsmith's skill in the 1800s to develop peanut-picking ma-

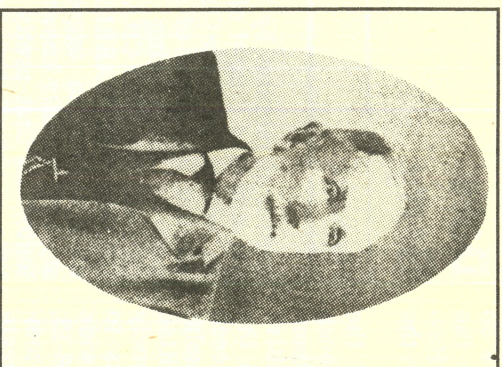
chines. Along with Augustus Bunkley, he organized the Gwaltney-Bunkley Peanut Co., which bought peanuts from farmers in Isle of Wight County and shipped them to Norfolk and other markets. (The demand for peanuts had boomed after the Civil War, when Yankee soldiers first tasted the South's then little-known "goober peas.")

When I was a boy, the Smithfield peanut factories of Gwaltney-Bunkley and of Col. Charles Fenton Day enlivened Smithfield's wharf area. Then, suddenly, they caught fire in the early morning of Aug. 17, 1921. The dry peanuts burned fiercely, and soon all the warehouses, meat smokehouses and docks were aflame. The passenger steamer Smithfield, which was just getting up steam that morning for her run to Newport News, hastily cast off and backed out into the Pagan River, training her fire hoses on the burning dockside.

Smithfield people still talk of that hellish fire. Lard stored in the meat houses melted and ran across the wharf, staining firemen's shoes.

That fire changed Smithfield's history. The Gwaltney-Bunkley and C. F. Day peanut factories lost their market to nearby Suffolk, where Amedeo Obici began his Planters Nut and Chocolate operation. But fortunately Smithfield held on to its ham business.

"Old man P. D." had added



P.D. Gwaltney

... Smithfield curer

hams to his peanut business and was already known for his Gwaltney Genuine brand. His son P. D. Gwaltney Jr. in the 1920s and '30s expanded Gwaltney's into a big business, incorporating in 1929 with his son, Howard, as vice president and his son, P. D. III, as secretary-treasurer.

Gwaltney's continued to operate until 1937 in its downtown wharf headquarters. Then, in 1937, it moved to a new and larger plant on Wright's Point, where Jim Sprigg's Smithfield Ham and Products Co. had already located.

Gwaltney's rapidly expanded after 1929. Its new slaughtering and processing

plant in 1937 was the second U.S. meat-inspected plant built in Virginia. When P. D. Junior died, his son, Howard — still living today in Smithfield — became president with his brother, Julius, as vice president and his brother, P. D. III, as secretary-treasurer.

By the 1930s the spreading fame of Virginia cured ham and bacon had attracted other firms — V. W. Joyner in Smithfield, Todd's in Richmond, Pruden's in Suffolk and Edwards' in Surry. The competition grew especially heated after Joseph Luter left Gwaltney's to start his own firm, now a part of Smithfield Foods under Luter's son, Joe Junior.

The Gwaltney records now at William and Mary evoke a simple age when records were kept by hand. A typical handwritten order, dated 1942, shows Bloomingdale's in New York ordering Gwaltney hams at 43 cents a pound and rindless bacon at 29 cents.

Today, Smithfield Foods stock is traded nationally, but its meats are still cured in Smithfield. President Luter lives in Northern Virginia and commutes to Smithfield by private plane. And the wharf, which one smelled of hams and peanuts, is now the scene of expensive condos facing the picturesque Pagan River marshes.

I'm glad we have libraries to record the way things were.

Parke Rouse is a Williamsburg writer.